

Message Text

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AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 3004

COMMERCE: FOR OED/MEPD/RANDOLPH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BMED, EC

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ECUADOREAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS DIRECTOR

REF: QUITO 1873

1. GENERAL MANAGER OF ECUADOREAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS, ING. MARCELO SAA CHACON HAS ADVISED EMBASSY OF HIS FORTHCOMING PRIVATE TRIP TO THE U.S. TO VISIT HIS SON. WHILE IN U.S., SAA WOULD LIKE TO INSPECT ONE OR TWO RAILROADS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHICH ELECTRIFIED, AND VISIT U.S. MANUFACTURERS OF LOCOMOTIVES AND RAILCARS. SAA IS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH GENERAL ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES AND EQUIPMENT OPERATING IN MEXICO AND OTHER LA COUNTRIES.

2. ITINERARY: SAA PLANS TO ARRIVE NYC WITH WIFE O/A JUNE 13 AND MAY REMAIN THERE WITH FRIENDS 2 OR 3 DAYS, AFTER WHICH HE INTENDS TO TRAVEL BY RAIL TO CHICAGO TO MEET SON AND AMERICAN FRIENDS. FROM CHICAGO, SAA, WIFE AND SON WISH TO TAKE TRAIN TO LOS ANGELES, STOPPING ANYWHERE ENROUTE TO VISIT RAILWAYS OR EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS. SAA THINKS HE WOULD ALSO HAVE TIME DURING NYC - CHICAGO LEG TO VISIT RRS AND SUPPLIERS. DUE TO LIMITED PERSONAL FUNDS, SAA ASKS IF HOST U.S. COMPANIES CAN POSSIBLY PROVIDE GRATIS RAIL FARES FOR HIMSELF, WIFE AND SON FOR NYC - CHICAGO AND CHICAGO - LOS ANGELES PORTIONS. FROM LOS ANGELES, SAA AND FAMILY WILL FLY TO MIAMI AND QUITO.

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3. AS COMMERCE IS AWARE (REFTEL), STUDY WILL SOON BE INITIATED

TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF MODERNIZING ENTIRE ECUADOREAN RAILWAY NETWORK. DURING RANDOLPH VISIT, SAA COMMENTED THAT NATIONAL RAILWAYS, WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO THE COUNTRY'S COMMERCE, OPERATE AT FULL CAPACITY AND REQUIRE MUCH NEW EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS EXPANSION. EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE KNOWN BY END OF 1974. IN 1970, NATIONAL RAILWAYS COMPANY ESTIMATED NEW INVESTMENT OF US\$12.8 MILLION WOULD MAKE MODERNIZATION FEASIBLE. SAA'S TRIP PROVIDES EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY ACQUANT HIM WITH LATEST U.S. RAILWAY EQUIPMENT.

4. SINCE SAA WILL BE INFLUENTIAL IN SELECTION OF NEW RAILWAY EQUIPMENT, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT COMMERCE PROVIDE COURTESIES AND ASSISTANCE, TO INCLUDE MEETING ON ARRIVAL IN NYC, AND ADVANCE SCHEDULING OF VISIT WITH RR COMPANY OFFICIALS (E.G. AMTRAK, SANTA FE) AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS, AMONG WHICH GE. COMMERCE, AT ITS DISCRETION, MAY ALSO WISH TO SOLICIT COMPLIMENTARY PASSAGE FOR RAIL PORTIONS OF TRIP MENTIONED ABOVE.

5. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE MORE DETAILS OF SAA ITINERARY AS SOON AS KNOWN.
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